



[www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov)

## **City of Branson**

110 West Maddux  
Branson, MO 65616  
417-337-8526

Public Information Department  
[jadams@bransonmo.gov](mailto:jadams@bransonmo.gov)

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**Date:** January 5, 2010

**Contact:** Ted Martin, Division Chief

Sub-freezing temperatures have descended on the Ozarks and the City of Branson Fire Department reminds area residents and commercial business owners to be prepared. With snowfall expected Wednesday and temperatures plummeting to sub-zero for an extended time period, several safety issues become a priority.

- Give space heaters space: Keep portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Keep children and pets away from heaters and never leave them on when you leave the home or go to bed. Use space heaters that turn off automatically if tipped over and always plug them directly into a wall outlet, never an extension cord.
- Fireplace safety: Have the flue inspected and or cleaned annually or after each cord of wood burned. Never overload a firebox and only burn seasoned firewood – not paper, scrap wood, or trash!
- Fire sprinkler systems: Keep minimum heat on throughout buildings protected by fire sprinkler systems. Preventing a freeze-up of the pipes will allow these systems to operate properly should a fire occur and avoid costly water damage from frozen broken pipes. Minimum heat means 40-50 degrees throughout the building.
- Be prepared: Install smoke alarms on each level of the home and in or near each sleeping area. Test alarms monthly to insure proper operation. If using fossil fuels such as firewood, propane, or kerosene, install a carbon monoxide alarm and test their operation monthly as well. Finally, develop a family fire escape plan knowing two ways out of each room of the home with a common meeting place outside, such as the neighbor's front porch. Practice your plan monthly and teach family members to call 9-1-1 for any emergency stating their type of emergency, name, and call back phone number.

Keep enough resources at home available to be self-sustainable for up to three days. This includes bottled water, food, and medications, for example.

- Take care of yourself and neighbors too: Remember to dress warm in layers including hat and gloves to prevent exposure to the cold, including frost bite. Check on neighbors, especially the elderly, to confirm they have adequate heat and other essential resources to endure this winter weather event.

For further information, tour the City's web-site as well as the National Fire Protection Association, the American Red Cross, or the State of Missouri Emergency Management web sites.